

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0263

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF
SUBJ: YOUNG/HERZOG CONVERSATION, JANUARY 31

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR YOUNG PAID COURTESY CALL ON ISREALI PERM REP HERZOG, JANUARY 31. CONVERSATION CENTERED ON ISRAELI/AFRICAN RELATIONS, SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST AND WALDHEIM'S TRIP, NAMIBIA, AND UN FINANCING AND STAFFING. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER EXCHANGE OF TRADITIONAL COURTESY REMARKS, AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID HE HOPED HERZOG WOULD NOT HESITATE TO CALL HIM WHENEVER OCCASION AROSE WHETHER DAY OR NIGHT. YOUNG RECALLED THAT AT TIME OF 30TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON ZIONISM, HE DECIDED ALONG WITH CONGRESSMAN LOWENSTEIN TO VISIT ISRAEL AND ARAB COUNTRIES. YOUNG CONTINUED BY NOTING THAT HIGH LEVEL OF ANTI-ISRAELI SENTIMENT IN UNITED NATIONS DID NOT SEEM TO CORRESPOND WITH TRUE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD ISRAEL.

3. AMBASSADOR HERZOG NOTED THAT ISRAEL HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH MUCH OF AFRICA. ISRAEL HAS INTEREST
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OFFICES IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SWAZILAND, LESOTHO, AND MALAWI; AND IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH LIBERIA, KENYA, ZAIRE, ZAMBIA, AND ETHIOPIA. HERZOG ADDED THAT WHEN FM ALLON VISITED NEW YORK LAST FALL, POINT WAS MADE TO VARIOUS AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS THAT THEY SHOULD VIEW THEIR NATIONAL INTERESTS INDEPENDENTLY OF ARAB PRESSURES.

AS FOR ISRAEL'S RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, ISRAEL FEELS STRONGLY THAT ALL ASPECTS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S RELATIONS SHOULD BE AIRED. HERZOG RECALLED THAT WHILE THE IRAQI MISSION WAS INTRODUCING THIS FALL A GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH STRONGLY CONDEMNS ISRAEL, OIL WAS BEING LOADED IN BASRA FOR SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS. YOUNG COMMENTED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE WAS OF KEEN INTEREST TO HIM AND A SUBJECT THAT HIS STAFF WOULD BE FOLLOWING CLOSELY.

4. TURNING TO MIDDLE EAST, HERZOG OBSERVED THAT SYG WALDHEIM WOULD BE PREPARING A REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF HIS CONTACTS TO BE READY BY MARCH 1. HERZOG NOTED THAT HE HAD SUGGESTED TO WALDHEIM THAT LATTER WAIT TO PREPARE REPORT UNTIL AFTER THE ISRAELI LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE AND THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING TAKE PLACE, BUT WALDHEIM SEEMED INSISTENT ON GOING AHEAD. HERZOG ADDED THAT WALDHEIM WANTS A GENEVA CONFERENCE BY APRIL. YOUNG RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT WALDHEIM'S REPORT SCHEDULE WOULD PROBABLY SLIP SINCE THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAD INDICATED AGREEMENT TO SECRETARY VANCE'S PROPOSAL THAT WALDHEIM NOT RPT NOT MAKE REPORT UNTIL AFTER BOTH WALDHEIM AND VANCE HAD COMPLETED VISITS TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

5. AMBASSADOR YOUNG THEN NOTED THAT WHILE THE UN DOES NOT HAVE A LEADING ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IT
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PERHAPS SHOULD WITH REGARD TO NAMIBIA. HERZOG AGREED AND ADDED THAT A FORMULA MIGHT BE WORKED OUT WHEREBY THE US COULD TAKE THE LEAD IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA AND THEN BRING IN THE UNITED NATIONS. NOT UNLIKE US/UN ACTIONS AS CONCERNS THE MIDDLE EAST. HERZOG SAID US AUTHORITY COULD BRING THE PARTIES IN THESE AFRICAN DISPUTES TOGETHER AND AFTERWARDS HAND MATTER OVER TO THE UN.

6. HERZOG OBSERVED THAT THE UNITED NATIONS AS A NEGOTIATING GROUP IS QUOTE HOPELESS, GIVEN THE INFLUENCE OF THE SOVIETS AND THE ARABS IN THE UN. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ARABS HAVE MORE THAN FIVE TIMES THEIR ALLOCATION ON UN STAFFS. YOUNG NOTED THAT IT WAS TIME TO MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO PACE MORE QUALIFIED US PERSONNEL IN KEY UN STAFF POSITIONS. THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY ENERGETIC ON THIS MATTER OFTEN IN THE PAST. HERZOG REPLIED THAT STAFFING OF UNITED NATIONS WAS SERIOUS PROBLEM

AS WESTERNERS WERE BECOMING PROGRESSIVELY THINNED OUT. HE CONTINUED THAT FINANCING OF UNITED NATIONS WAS EQUALLY SERIOUS PROBLEM. ARABS AND OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES PAY FAR TOO LITTLE BASED ON THEIR NATIONAL INCOMES.

7. CONCLUDING CONVERSATION HERZOG SAID HE WOULD RETURN TO ISRAEL TO BE THERE FOR WALDHEIM'S VISIT TO JERUSALEM. HERZOG NOTED THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WANTED TO DISCOURAGE WALDHEIM FROM MAKING A RETURN/SHUTTLE VISIT TO JERUSALEM. WALDHEIM HAD PROPOSED TO GOI THAT FEBRUARY 13 BE KEPT OPEN AS POSSIBLE DATE FOR HIS RETURN TO JERUSALEM; HERZOG UNDER INSTRUCTIONS HAD INDICATED TO WALDHEIM ISRAEL'S DISFAVOR OF THE IDEA. HERZOG MADE FINAL OBSERVATION THAT PLO IS UNDERGOING RADICAL CHANGES AND ITS FORMER STRUCTURE "IS FINISHED." SYRIA, JORDAN AND TO A
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LESSER EXTENT EGYPT WANT A TAMED PLO; THE BATTLE OVER CONTROL OF THE ORGANIZATION IS WELL UNDERWAY.

8. FOLLOWING CONVERSATION, YOUNG AND HERZOG MET INFORMALLY WITH CORRESPONDENTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS FROM US AND ISRAELI MEDIA.
YOUNG

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